

**NIBIB – HHMI Interfaces Initiative for
Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Training**

**Applicant Teleconference
May 1, 2008**

NIBIB-HHMI Interfaces Initiative

- Recognize importance of interdisciplinary research for the advancement of biomedical science and health care.
- Facilitate development of new training opportunities in emerging interdisciplinary research environments.
- Train
 - biologists to appreciate the power and limitations of tools from physical sciences and engineering.
 - physical scientists and engineers to appreciate the nature and breadth of biological questions.
- Transform domestic institutional programs to support interdisciplinary research training.
- Increase number of researchers working at the intersection of the biological and physical sciences.

Interfaces Initiative Transition Plan

Phase I (3+ years)

- Establish new interdisciplinary training programs.
 - January, 2005 – Program Announcement
 - November, 2005 – Phase I Awards

Phase II (5 years)

- Support recently established interdisciplinary training programs.
 - May 19, 2008 – Letter of Intent
 - June 17, 2008 – Applicant Receipt
 - September/October, 2008 - Scientific Review
 - January, 2009 – Advisory Council Review
 - March/April, 2009 – Phase II Awards

Phase I and Phase II Goals

Phase I - Reduce existing barriers to interdisciplinary education:

- Promote academic and administrative institutional change that facilitates interdisciplinary education.
- Develop interdisciplinary coursework, laboratory research, and community-building activities appropriate for trainees from different scientific backgrounds.
- Identify and disseminate ‘best practices’ that support interdisciplinary research training.

Phase II – Support interdisciplinary training programs.

- Continue academic and institutional changes begun in Phase I (or equivalent) period.
- Provide student support for recently established interdisciplinary training programs.

Responsiveness Criteria

- Programs that have not yet been implemented are *not* responsive to this RFA, i.e. they must have achieved the objectives of the Phase I Interfaces Initiative: http://www.hhmi.org/grants/pdf/comp_annnc/2005_nibib_program.pdf.
- Programs must be recently established (3-5 years) research training programs.
- Programs must propose and achieve *interdisciplinary*, not multi-disciplinary, research training.
- Programs do *not* need to have applied to or been funded by the Phase I initiative.

Eligibility Criteria

- Domestic public or private institutions that grant doctoral degrees in science and/or engineering are eligible to apply to this RFA.
- Although institutions may submit more than one application to this RFA, it is *strongly encouraged* that various schools of multi-component institutions join together in the submission of a single application.
- Institutions with active research training grants (e.g., an NIH T90 or an NSF IGERT award) are eligible only if grants are non-overlapping or the new application is significantly different than the current program(s).

Application Guidelines

- Applicants must propose predoctoral research training programs.
- Institutions may apply alone or as a multi-institutional consortium. For multi-institutional applications, the applicant must be the lead institution.
- Institutions may designate multiple PDs but may not split training resources between program directors.
- Applicants may request support for up to five years.
- Applicants may not request more than \$500K in direct costs or more than 10 trainee slots for any grant year.
- Renewal and resubmission applications are not allowed under this RFA. Successful programs will submit renewal applications to the standard T32 program.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on the following elements:

- Institutional History and Impact
- Research Training Program
- Training Program Director(s)
- Faculty Mentors
- Trainee Recruitment, Selection and Retention
- Institutional Environment, Resources, and Commitment
- Evaluation and Tracking Plan
- Dissemination Plan

Program Contact

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